

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CAPE T 00083 231740Z

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W

-----109346 231743Z /43

O 231543Z JAN 78 ZFF-4

FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6620

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY RYEKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAPE TOWN 0083

EXDIS

DEPT PLEASE PASS TO SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, SF, WA

SUBJ: PROXIMITY TALKS AT FOREIGN MINISTER LEVEL

REF: (A) CAPE TOWN 79, (B) USUN 0187, (C) STATE 017257

1. BRAND FOURIE CALLED THE CAPE FIVE TO HIS OFFICE THIS AFTERNOON

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 CAPE T 00083 231740Z

TO GIVE US ORALLY THE SAG RESPONSE TO THE PROPOSAL MADE YESTERDAY
ON THE PROXIMITY TALKS. THERE WAS NO PARTICULAR SIGNIFICANCE

TO FOURIE DOING THIS RATHER THAN BOTHA, BECAUSE THE LATTER WAS
TIED UP IN MEETINGS WITH THE PRIME MINISTER.

2. THE REPLY FOURIE GAVE US IS SUMMARIZED IN THE FOLLOWING
JOINT REPORT ON OUR MEETINGS:

BEGIN QUOTE

(1) THE CAPE TOWN FIVE WERE REQUESTED TO COME TO BRAND FOURIE'S OFFICE AT 3 P.M. THIS AFTERNOON TO RECEIVE THE SOUTH AFRICAN REPLY TO THE COMMUNICATION WHICH WE PRESENTED YESTERDAY EVENING.

(2) BRAND FOURIE INDICATED THAT THE COMMUNICATION HAD BEEN DISCUSSED WITH THE PRIME MINISTER LAST NIGHT AND WITH THE CABINET THIS MORNING. HE HAD BEEN AUTHORIZED TO TELL US THAT PIK BOTHA AND HE WOULD BE ATTENDING THE PROXIMITY TALKS ON THE RESPECTIVE DATES INDICATED IN OUR PROPOSAL EVEN THOUGH THESE PRESENTED SCHEDULING DIFFICULTIES FOR THEM.

(3) WITH RESPECT TO THE POINT ON AN ANNOUNCEMENT FOR A DATE FOR ELECTIONS, FOURIE SAID THAT THE STATE PRESIDENT IN THE SPEECH AT THE OPENING OF PARLIAMENT ON FRIDAY JAN 27 WOULD MAKE ONLY A GENERAL REFERENCE TO ELECTIONS WITHOUT SPECIFYING DATES. THE PRIME MINISTER IN WINDING UP THE NO-CONFIDENCE DEBATE (PROBABLY ON FEB 3) WOULD ALSO AVOID MENTIONING SPECIFIC DATES. HE WOULD TAKE NOTE OF THE COMMITMENT TO GRANT NAMIBIA INDEPENDENCE BY THE END OF THE YEAR AND THE NEED FOR ELECTIONS FOR A CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY. WHILE THE PRECISE LANGUAGE STILL REMAINS TO BE SETTLED, THE PRIME MINISTER'S REFERENCE WOULD BE ALONG THE FOLLOWING LINES:

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 CAPE T 00083 231740Z

" THE FIXING AND ANNOUNCING OF THE DATE FOR ELECTIONS WOULD BE LEFT TO THE ADMINISTRATOR GENERAL BUT IN DOING SO HE WOULD TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE DATE FOR INDEPENDENCE AND OTHER CONSIDERATIONS".

(4) BRAND FOURIE SAID OFF THE RECORD THAT WE SHOULD UNDERSTAND THAT THE DATE FOR ELECTIONS WOULD NOT BE ANNOUNCED BEFORE OR DURING THE NEW YORK DISCUSSIONS BUT WOULD HAVE TO BE MADE SOON AFTER PIK BOTHA RETURNED TO CAPE TOWN. HE NOTED THAT THERE WAS NO ROOM FOR FURTHER POSTPONEMENT. ALL OF THIS OF COURSE WOULD BE CONDITIONAL ON THE OUTCOME OF THE NEW YORK TALKS.

(5) IN VIEW OF THE POTENTIALLY ADVERSE IMPACT WHICH SO SPECIFIC A REFERENCE TO THE ADMINISTRATOR GENERAL FIXING AND ANNOUNCING THE DATE FOR ELECTIONS WOULD HAVE ON THE ATMOSPHERE FOR THE NEGOTIATIONS, WE ASKED FOURIE WHETHER A MORE GENERAL FORMULATION MIGHT NOT BE MADE. FOURIE REPLIED THAT HIS IS LANGUAGE APPROVED BY THE PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET AND HE SAW NO POSSIBILITY OF RECONSIDERATION. THIS WOULD SEEM TO IMPLY THAT PROVIDED THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE IS APPOINTED IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE THE ADMINISTRATOR GENERAL'S ANNOUNCE-

MENT COULD BE MADE IN CONSULTATION WITH THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE, BUT IF THERE WERE A DELAY IN APPOINTING HIM THEN THE ADMINISTRATOR GENERAL WOULD HAVE TO GO AHEAD ON HIS OWN.

(6) FOURIE SAID HE HOPED THAT THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE NEW YORK MEETING COULD BE MADE VERY SOON. HE ALSO ASKED FOR A COPY OF THE FIVE POWER PROPOSALS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. WE SAID WE WOULD RELAY THESE POINTS TO OUR CAPITALS AND REQUEST A SPEEDY RESPONSE. END QUOTE.

3. THE PROBLEM I SEE WITH THE SAG RESPONSE IS THE EXPLICIT REFERENCE TO THE ADMINISTRATOR GENERAL FIXING AND ANNOUNCING THE DATE FOR ELECTIONS IN VORSTER'S PARLIAMENTARY SPEECH.
THE UNILATERAL CHARACTER OF PM'S PROPOSED LANGUAGE, COMING
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 CAPE T 00083 231740Z

PRESUMABLY AFTER SWAPO HAS AGREED TO THE NEW YORK TALKS AND AN ANNOUNCEMENT IS MADE BUT BEFORE THE TALKS OPEN, COULD LEAD SWAPO TO QUESTION THE UTILITY OF GOING TO THE TALKS. IT CAN BE ARGUED THAT THE PROPOSED SOUTH AFRICAN LANGUAGE DOES NOT CLOSE THE DOOR TO THE ADMINISTRATOR GENERAL FIXING AND ANNOUNCING THE DATE IN CONSULTATION WITH THE UN SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE, BUT SWAPO MAY NOT LOOK ON IT FROM THAT GENEROUS A PERSPECTIVE. BECAUSE OF THIS CONCERN I SOUGHT THE CLARIFICATION FROM FOURIE WHICH IS CONTAINED IN THE FIRST SENTENCE OF PARA (5) OF THE JOINT REPORT. MY COLLEAGUES WERE NOT CONCERNED BY THIS ASPECT. THE DEPT AND USUN WILL HAVE A BETTER FEEL FOR HOW SWAPO IS LIKELY TO RESPOND. HOPEFULLY SWAPO CAN BE PERSUADED NOT TO OVERREACT. FOURIE WAS VERY FIRM IN SAYING THAT THE SAG WOULD NOT RPT NOT CONSIDER CHANGES IN THE FORMULATION.

4. THE THIRD SENTENCE OF PARA (5) OF THE JOINT REPORT WAS INCLUDED AT THE INSISTENCE OF SIR DAVID SCOTT WITH THE ACQUIESCENCE OF THE OTHER THREE COLLEAGUES. BOWDLER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, NEGOTIATIONS, AMBASSADORS MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978CAPET00083
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780034-0041
Format: TEL
From: CAPE TOWN
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780135/aaaabdgm.tel
Line Count: 154
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: b50325e1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 78 CAPE TOWN 79, 78 USUN NEW YORK 187, 78 STATE 17257
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3732586
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PROXIMITY TALKS AT FOREIGN MINISTER LEVEL
TAGS: PORG, PDEV, SF, WA, (FOURIE, BRAND)
To: STATE USUN NEW YORK
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b50325e1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014